WHERE TO GIVE
WAYS TO GIVE
SKILLS TO LAST A LIFETIME.

national average (16 percent) for this population.
independently, with 44 percent of graduates living independently. This is nearly three times the
disabilities. The program has also been extremely successful in helping students live
ClemsonLIFE graduates have an impressive 84 percent employment rate, which is more
other students across campus.
workout at the campus gymnasium and attend sporting events. They are involved in a variety
the benefit of a college experience. All LIFE students attend classes, eat in the dining halls,
intellectual disabilities should not be a barrier for living life to its fullest — or to having
there, and the residents say I do a great job.
for home and work. I live with a roommate
along with roommates and make to-do lists
own. I learned how to budget my money, get
work internships as managers for the University’s sports teams, from women's crew to men's
You will find ClemsonLIFE students working at the front desks of Clemson's facilities. They
University and our surrounding community. But most importantly, your gift to scholarships for
ClemsonLIFE Endowed Grant-in-Aid – which was established to honor Grace, the daughter of
K-12 years. Hence, scholarships are crucial to support these dedicated students.
program for one academic year is more than $36,000. This cost is prohibitive for many families,
FUNDING THEIR FUTURE.
initially supported through a three-year grant from the College Transition Connection, the
Independent living assistants reside with LIFE students in University apartments to help them
Disability Inclusion Silver Award by the Disability Awareness Alliance in 2017. ClemsonLIFE is
the city. And our students and the local community have fully embraced them.
In its work to equip students with
occupational, social and independent living
In its work to equip students with

ClemsonLIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) is a post-secondary education program with the
specific purpose of helping young adults with intellectual disabilities obtain the life skills
necessary to gain employment and live independently. The LIFE program opened its doors in
2009 as a two-year program with three staff members and an initial cohort of five LIFE students.

The program does not receive any funding from the University. Providing such a structured,

Only three years later, the program has grown into a nationally recognized four-year program with 40
volunteers.

It’s clear that ClemsonLIFE students have become embedded within Clemson University and
and friendship.
INDEPENDENCE, EMPOWERMENT AND FRIENDSHIP.

FUNDING THEIR FUTURE.

Youth supported through a three-year grant from the College Transition Connection, the
program do not receive any funding from the University. Providing such a structured,

SKILLS TO LAST A LIFETIME.

A public university setting is ideal for this kind of training for young adults with intellectual
All young adults must develop skills and understanding about themselves and their world around them in order to fully participate in society and become successful contributing

ClemsonLIFE students are independent living, working and self-sufficient young adults who live in an accessible

Innovation and leadership among these young adults has led to presentations in national and regional

ClemsonLIFE students are independent living, working and self-sufficient young adults who live in an accessible

Independence and self-sufficiency go hand-in-hand with volunteering to help life-long learners help their

IT HAS BROUGHT INCLUSION INTO PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND PROMPTED
PeOPLE TO SEE DISABILITIES IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.

INDEPENDENCE, EMPOWERMENT AND FRIENDSHIP.

LIFE program is completely self-sustaining through student tuition and private donations.

Initially supported through a three-year grant from the College Transition Connection, the

INDEPENDENCE, EMPOWERMENT AND FRIENDSHIP.

You will find ClemsonLIFE students working at the front desks of Clemson's facilities. They

"ClemsonLIFE taught me how to live on my

It makes me feel good when they say that.

It's important for all people with intellectual disabilities to develop the skills of

• communications
• self-advocacy and safety;
• life skills;

• group membership provides essential motivation and support for learning and participation
in community life.

Higher education is a vehicle for self-empowerment, access to social networks, employment
opportunities, and independence and self-sufficiency.

Functional Literacy-Bank and budgeting

All young adults must develop skills and understanding about themselves and their world around them in order to fully participate in society and become successful contributing adults.

All young adults go through a similar development process that requires certain activities,
experiences and support.

Skills to last a lifetime.

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program do not receive any funding from the University. Providing such a structured,